

Waterbury Democrat

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1933

Our Side Of It

Before entering any denials or preferring any charges we must say right at the beginning that it is not the intention of the Waterbury Democrat to create discord or start trouble for the men who are directing the various emergency relief organizations in this city.

However, we feel that we are free to criticize the actions of any officials or employes at all connected with the above groups. If we are denied this right, then we can only believe that there must be much to criticize.

Nobody appreciates the headaches that are Mr Harris' more than we do. He is in a difficult position. He must satisfy the whims of every unemployed man and woman in Waterbury.

The Hartford headquarters of the CWA on Friday last informed the same representative of this paper that there was no CWA ruling ousting men over 60 years from jobs.

Abolish The Counties

Our own congressman, Representative Edward W. Goss, is the latest legislator to come out in support of the movement to get rid of existing county lines.

The elimination of the county jail could be accomplished very readily in a state as small as Connecticut. We don't know, though, how it would work out in Texas with its 254 counties.

It is on the score of additional taxation that Representative Goss demands the abolition and consolidation of counties. In Texas, for example, county taxes must constitute a considerable sum.

to other parts of the nation. But if we show signs of abolishing the county lines certainly the larger states will be quick to follow our example.

Hoarded Money For Use

Senator Robert J. Buckley, a prominent member of the Senate banking committee, estimates that the inauguration of bank deposit insurance the first of the year will bring \$1,250,000,000 of cash out of hiding and back into the banks.

When the people trust the banks again, will not the banks trust the people again? That returned money will be only a liability unless they lend it out at interest.

Stable Government

It is a common thing for students of the science of politics to complain that the American system of government is unduly rigid and inflexible as compared with the parliamentary systems of such democracies as England and France.

All this may be quite true; but recent events in France seem to indicate that a parliamentary system can be altogether too flexible. One premier follows another in dizzy succession in Paris just now.

It is gradually becoming apparent to insiders down at Washington that President Roosevelt will undoubtedly work the same charm over the members of the 73rd Congress next year as he did this.

E. Monroe Bailey, chief chemist of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has released information in this state which shows that prior to the administration of the late William Howard Taft there were no blended whiskies sold in the United States.

One more democratic senatorial candidate is in the field. Mayor Charles Swartz has endorsed the candidacy of Professor Harry Morgan Ayres of Westport.

The black rat comes from the East Indies and Burma. The brown rat, the harbor and stronger, is the mortal enemy. Toward the end of the last century, London's brown rats had almost made an end of the plague-carrying black ones.

The appointment of Ed Guinan of Hartford as one of Connecticut's supervisors of the census survey of business, property, and real estate taxation is of much interest to Waterburyans.

Huey Long's always quoting Scriptures and in that last Louisiana mixup he was merely trying to "make his calling and election sure."

When we get a stable dollar again, maybe we'll keep the stable door locked. All vehicles must be lighted not later than 5:00 o'clock tonight.

DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT ALLEN

Government Has Spent Ten Million Transporting CCC Workers; Majority Press Opinion Demands F. D. R. Explain Gold Policy; CWA Has Under Consideration Plan for New U. S. Census in 1934; O'Connor Finds Postal Savings System Is Far from "Unnecessary"

Washington, Dec. 26 — The Civilian Conservation Corps has been a little boon to the railroad. Since its inception the government has spent over \$10,000,000 in transporting the men and their freight.

A Book A Day by BRUCE CATTON

What Seven People Did On Christmas

"Christmas Tree," by Lady Eleanor Smith, is a fluffy and somewhat empty Christmas story, which a great many people probably will read once, but which hardly anybody—unless I'm badly mistaken—will care to read twice.

The quarrelsome couple are depicted in a London, where the party. The nobleman hates his wife and bought the tree for his mistress. The financier, childless, sends his tree to children, to his hospital.

London Letter

By W. G. QUISENBERRY (United Press Staff Correspondent)

London (UP)—Rat-traps by the hundreds are being set by worried Londoners, for the dreaded plague-carrying black rat has returned.

Now comes Dr Martin Hinton of the British Museum, who says that there may be no need to get panicky, but the statement is perfectly correct. The black rats are back, and there are plenty of them.

Cupid, smoked herring, and Joseph Stalin—an odd mixture, certainly. But they all fit into a little drama of the Scottish fishing industry.

The herring season was hardly under way this year when the British curers decided to stop buying. There was a glut of herrings, he said, since Russia stopped taking 20 per cent of the catch.

chicken expert in the administration. . . . Dr William L. Myer, able and working new governor of the farm credit administration, is also a fowl authority, owns and operates an 84-acre farm near Dulles, Va. It is equipped to handle 70,000 chicks and has a flock of 5,000 hens.

Postal Savings Comptroller of the Currency "Jaft" O'Connor's observation that the deposit insurance act would make the postal savings system unnecessary, was nothing to get excited about.

HARNESSING TIDES Dexter Cooper, brother of Colonel Hugh Cooper, who has built several of Soviet Russia's greatest power projects, has submitted a plan to the public works administration for harnessing the 27-foot tides along the northern coast of Maine.

In New York

By PAUL HARRISON New York—Nobody—except perhaps the omniscient Mr. S. Claus—knows for sure who wrote the famous children's poem beginning: "Twas the night before Christmas . . ."

That may be news to the millions of people, of numerous generations, who always have supposed that the author was Dr. Clement Clarke Moore. The bibliographers, encyclopedias, histories and copies of the poem itself all give that name.

NEW NAZI TACTICS According to confidential information that has come to Washington authorities from Germany, the Hitlerites are organizing another phase of their drive to woo American public opinion.

They believe he composed it six N. Y. a few days before the Christmas of 1822, read it at the breakfast table the next morning, gave a copy to a house guest, who later showed it to Dr. Moore.

Scholar and a Poet The facts on both sides of the case are meager but interesting. Dr. Moore himself was of unimpeachable character and was not accused by anyone of intentionally appropriating some one else's verse.

Dr Moore did write verses. He published a volume of them in 1844, and "A Visit From St. Nicholas," the original of "The Night Before Christmas," was included. Incidentally, it was by all odds the best of the lot, and there was only one other poem in the book which was done in the same style.

A JUDICIARY MIRACLE Supreme Court Justice Sutherland's recent decision upholding the constitutionality of a "miracle" testimony in criminal cases, is being hailed as a "miracle" in court circles.

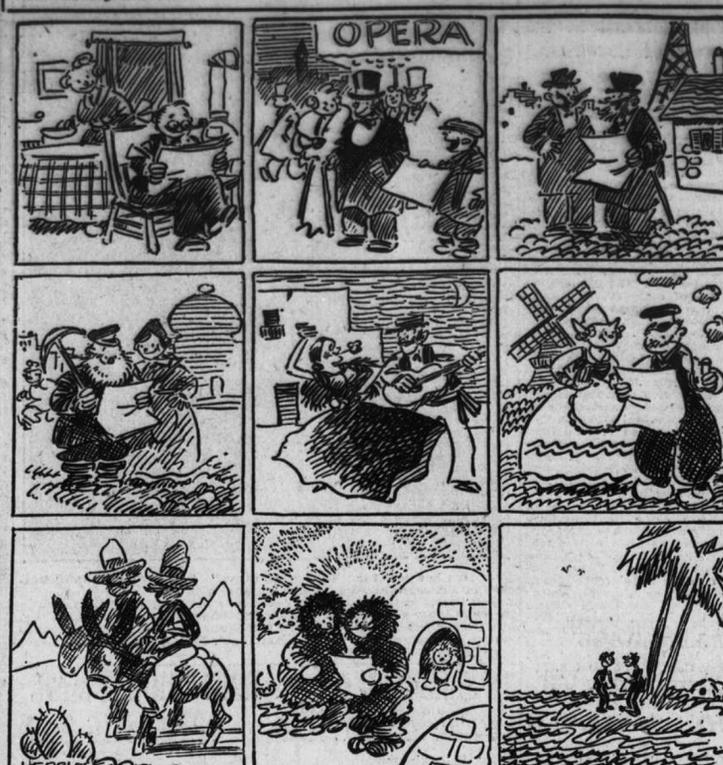
First Published Anonymously Mr Livingston seems to have just as unimpeachable a reputation as Dr Moore. He was a statesman, a soldier and an author. And he also wrote book of poems. "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was not among them, but the family legend contains an explanation for its absence.

So They Say All countries are coming sooner or later to some type of organization that will enable those who cannot get proper medical care to obtain it without loss of self-respect.

SWEDISH STOCK VALUES UP Stockholm (UP)—The stock exchange values of leading Swedish shares increased in October 25,000,000 kronor, according to an estimate by the Svensk Finansstatistik.

What this country needs is a brand-new joke book. —Judge Harry E. Keidan of Detroit. If the Mississippi overflows its banks next spring, you can bet your life someone will pin that on Moscow.

"See The Lindberghs Got Back All Right"



Know Your Waterbury

Its History, Facts and General Information

Next to providing the meeting-house the most important thing in Waterbury as in other Connecticut and New England settlements was what was called "seating the meeting-house."

Here was how the committee decided: "The first member was one of the rich men of the town; the second represented fairly the prosperous, well-to-do element, although himself a young man, while the third owned at that time but an ox, a horse, and five acres of upland. Next to the pew of the minister's choice (the pulpit, between) was the pew considered next in dignity. It has been the general consensus that the committee did their work wisely and well in this respect to "seating" for voted to the lot of children gather in the courtyard of the huge apartment development which now occupies the site of the Moore estate to sing carols and recite the poem in tribute to the memory of that notable scholar and somewhat less distinguished poet.

The family of Dr. William S. Thomas, however, will tell you that all this Clement Moore business is a mistake. It is their contention, backed by a family legend more than a hundred years old, that Dr. Thomas' great-grandfather, one Henry Livingston, Jr., wrote the poem himself.

They believe he composed it six N. Y. a few days before the Christmas of 1822, read it at the breakfast table the next morning, gave a copy to a house guest, who later showed it to Dr. Moore.

Q. How did the term "Xmas" originate? A. The initial letter of the Greek name for Christ is "X" and the coincidence of its cruciform shape led to an early adoption of this letter as the figure and symbol of Christ.

Q. What is the derivation of the word "Noel"? A. It is the French word for Christmas, from the Latin "Natalis," natal or birthday.

Q. Where did the custom of bringing in the Yule Log originate? A. The Scandinavians gave the Yule Log in their Feast of Juul, when a great fire was kindled in honor of Thor. The Goths and Saxons called the festival Yule, and thus we get the words Yule and Yuletide.

Q. What is the special significance of the use of holly and mistletoe at Christmas? A. The holly wreath is said to symbolize the crown of thorns, and the red berries represent drops of blood. Mistletoe comes straight from the Druids of ancient Britain who celebrated a great feast at the time of the winter solstice. Many of their rites and ceremonies were connected with mistletoe, which the Druids venerated.

Q. How many members comprise the United States supreme court? A. The chief justice and eight associate justices.

Q. Who were the nominees of the Socialist-Labor party for president and vice-president in 1932? A. Verne L. Reynolds of New York city for president, and J. W. Alken of Boston for vice-president.

Q. Were the wheels of railroad trains ever made of paper? A. For a while some passenger railroad cars were equipped with Allen compressed paper-cored wheels which made them ride easier. They were invented in 1876 by E. N. Allen. They were made of strawboard pressed white wet and then baked and dried in a kiln for from 30 to 80 days; then repressed and baked again for six months. The paper centers were encased in steel tires and sides. They were never used in freight equipment.

Q. What is the population, area and capital of Abyssinia? A. Population, 10,000,000; area, 350,000 square miles; capital, Addis Ababa.

Q. Who was the John Frits medal for 1932? A. Daniel Gowan Jackson, for mass production of copper from low-grade ores.

Know Your Waterbury

BRASS CITY FACTS The Waterbury Public Library contains about 142,225 volumes, according to the last city census.

The Slias Bronson Library opened in 1870. The predominant nationalities in Waterbury are Italian, Irish, French Canadian, Lithuanian and German.

In 1868 the General Court ordered Mattatuck and New Haven to build a road between the two places. Mattatuck was then only connected with Farmington.

Mattatuck was invested with town privileges in May, 1866. Waterbury's famous trolley strike of 1903 started on a Sunday morning, January 11, when 150 employes refused to go to work.

In December 1853, the first city tax of three cents on the dollar was laid at a special meeting. The common fence built by the early inhabitants of Waterbury had a gate at the southwest corner of Bank and Grand streets.

Questions And Answers

The Democrat's Washington Information Bureau

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED You can get an answer to any unanswerable question of fact or information by writing to Frederick M. Kerby, Question Editor, The Waterbury Democrat, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C. Send 75¢ in cents in cash or postage stamps for reply. Do not use postal cards. Medical and legal advice cannot be given nor can extended research be made. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Letters without name or address cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you please.

Q. How many awards have been made by the Carnegie Hero Fund since its foundation in 1904? A. 2,637.

Q. Name the governor of Wyoming. A. Leslie A. Miller.

Q. What is Dorothy Dix's real name? A. Elizabeth Meriwether Glimmer.

If you want a copy of our bulletin in Hard Candles and Taffies, write to the Waterbury Democrat's Washington Bureau, enclosing five cents in postage stamps.

Selected Poem

EDICT (By Paul Rayson) Tinkle, tinkle, little bar, Now we've brandy, Triple Star, Have you burnished up your brass, Reared a pyramid of glass, To delight the knowing eye Since our limit is the sky? Minus peephole, minus guard, Minus the crown of thorns, Are you busy as of yore When we had the old swing door? Yes, indeed! But what avail, Elbow room and polished rail, Those who leaned and those who stood, Are a long lost brotherhood, Making good her ancient boast, Here we walk Carry Nation's ghost! Voices join in concord sweet, Yes, but mind you keep your seat, Just remember where you are— Quat, but don't go near the bar!

Today's Almanac

December 26th 1834—Sir Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister of England. 1716—Thomas Gray, English poet, born, but not to blush unseen and waste his sweetness on the desert air.